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Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALEAP
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CINCPAC
COGARD
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 4 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

IN FY 76 BUDGET, ADMIN ASKS 1.3 BILLION FOR VN MIL AID (CHITRIB). REQUEST WILL MEET STRONG OPPOSITION IN CONGRESS (WSJ). BUDGET INCLUDES 762 MILLION FOR POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION IN SVN, CAMBODIA AND LAOS (PHINQ), AND 250 MILLION IN MIL AID FOR CAMBODIA - THAT CONGRESS IS "LIKELY TO CHOP" (HOYT/BOYD, PHINQ). NO NEW MIL AID
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FOR CAMBODIA SOUGHT, BUT OFFICIALS SAY FUNDS WILL BE

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REQUESTED LATER. BUDGET DID ASK 250 MILLION TO REIMBURSE DOD FOR STOCKS DELIVERED TO CAMBODIA IN 1974 - "ODDITY THE BUDGET DID NOT EXPLAIN FURTHER" (MCCARTNEY, PHINQ).

PRES MADE PITCH FOR MORE AID AT WH BREAKFAST MONDAY, SUGGESTED CONGRESSIONAL GROUP GO TO SVN AND CAMBODIA FOR APPRAISAL OF NEED FOR MORE MIL ASSISTANCE. HAC CHAIRMAN MAHON SAID HE ADVISED PRES AT BREAKFAST THAT IF CONGRESS VOTED TODAY, IT WOULD DEFEAT REQUEST FOR EXTRA FUNDS (GLOBE). SEN BYRD (WVA) OPINED THAT PRES FEELS CONGRESSIONAL VISIT MIGHT PERSUADE LAWMAKERS TO APPROVE 300 M
ILLION DOL SUPPLEMENTAL; ADDED THAT NO IMMEDIATE AGREEMENT REACHED ON PROPOSAL, AND RESISTANCE TO FURTHER AID REMAINED STRONG (PHINQ); STATED PRES

REEMPHASIZED CONCERN FOR MORE ASSISTANCE FOR GVN AND GKR FOR SELF-DEFENSE. BYRD ALSO COMMENTED THAT QUESTIONS NEED BE ASKED: WHAT ACTIONS BEING TAKEN TO ENCOURAGE THIEU TO MOVE IN DIRECTION OF CALLING ELECTION CALLED FOR IN C-F, AND WHAT DIPLOMACY UNDER WAY TO HAVE USSR AND CHINA CUT BACK AID TO NVN?

PRES' REQUEST FOR EXTRA AID DREW CRITICAL RECEPTION AT HOUSE DEFENSE APPROPRIATION SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING, WITH REP ADDABBO SAYING EXTRA AID WOULD APPEAR FURTHER ESCALATION OF "OUR INTERVENTION" IN SVN, AND REP FLYNT ASKING WHAT REASON TO BELIEVE IF WE UPPED AID LEVEL, USSR AND CHINA WOULD NOT INCREASE THEIRS AND THUS "RAISE THE ANTE" (WP). EA'S HABIB TESTIFIED THAT IF CAMBODIA FALLS IT WOULD BE BECAUSE US RENEGED ON PROMISE TO PROVIDE RESOURCES LONG AS CAMBODIANS WANTED TO FIGHT (GLOBE). PASSMAN BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF RICE SALES, ASKED HABIB WHETHER ANYTHING WRONG WITH LONGRESSMAN HELPING SELL US EXPORTS. HABIB DEMURRED, REFUSED TO "JUDGE" CONGRESSMAN. EXCHANGE OCCURRED DURING QUESTIONING ON AID TO CAMBODIA (AP, WP).

RE THIEU'S CLOSING FIVE OPPOSITION NEWSPAPERS AND ARRESTING 19 OF THEIR OFFICIALS ON CHARGES OF BEING UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMUNIST AGENTS, IN MOST SEVERE CRACKDOWN ON PRESS DURING HIS REGIME, INFO MINISTRY SAYS GVN SUPPORTS PRESS ACTIVITY BUT IS DETERMINED TO CRUSH COMMUNIST "ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE" PRESS AND WILL MAINTAIN NATL SECURITY AND PUBLIC ORDER. FIVE PAPERS CLOSED WERE AMONG NINE CONFISCATED SUNDAY FOR TRYING TO PUBLISH CHARGES OF CORRUPTION AGAINST THIEU CONTAINED IN "INDICTMENT NO. 2" DISTRIBUTED BY REV THANH AT

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SATURDAY RALLY. DOCUMENT CLAIMS THIEU PROLONGS WAR FOR HIS OWN BENEFIT, HAD RIGGED ELECTIONS, AND HAD STOLEN TAX FUNDS. REV THANH ACCUSES GVN OF REPRESSION OF PRESS FOR FAITHFULLY REPORTING NEWS, CALLS ACTION UNPRECEDENTED (AP SUN, GLOBE, CHITRIB; PHINQ).

WP'S MCCOMBS IN SAIGON REPORTS THAT MOVE AGAINST PRESS SEEN AS MAJOR BLOW BY THIEU AGAINST INTERNAL OPPOSITION. QUOTES WESTERN OBSERVERS THAT THEY ARE AMAZED AND PUZZLED BY ACTION, WHICH COMES AT TIME WHEN THEIU HAS GONE OUT OF WAY TO SPEAK TO WESTERN NEWSMEN TO PLEAD CASE FOR EXTRA MIL AID. SAYS SOME SPECULATION THIEU HAD DECIDED HE HAD NO CHANCE OF GETTING MORE MIL AID AND THAT OPPOSITION CHARGES SO DAMAGING IN VIETS' EYES, HE FELT HE HAD TO ACT. NOTES ANTI-GVN GROUPS HELD EMERGENCY MEETINGS AND JOURNALISTS' MEETING HELD IN "ATMOSPHERE OF FEAR." MCCOMBS COMMENTS THAT PERSONAL CORRUPTION CHARGES

AGAINST THIEU NEVER HAVE BEEN BACKED BY PROOF, BUT BY SAME TOKEN GVN OFFERED NO PROOF TO BACK UP CHARGES ARRESTED NEWSMEN AND PUBLISHERS COMMUNISTS. QUOTES THIEU OPPONENTS THAT HIS EARLIER PROPOSED LIBERALIZATION OF PRESS LAW WAS EFFORT TO IMPROVE IMAGE IN US. POINTS OUT ANTI-THIEU STATEMENTS IN CLOSED NEWSPAPERS WERE ALSO STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST IN TONE, AND THRUST WAS THAT THIEU REGIME SO CORRUPT AND INEPT THAT COUNTRY IS FALLING APART, SO CANNOT RESIST AND ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT WITH COMMUNISTS. SAYS ONLY THREE OF CLOSED-DOWN PAPERS CONSIDERED IN OPPOSITION; OTHER TWO WERE INDEPENDENTS. NOTES GVN CAN GRANT AND WITHDRAW PRESS LICENSES AT WILL, AND IT GAVE NO INDICATION IT CONTEMPLATES REISSUING LICENSES.

MARKHAM (NYT) IN SAIGON SEES PRESS CHALLENGE TO HIEU
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COMING AT PARTICULARLY AWKWARD MOMENT, WITH MIL AID REQUEST PENDING AND GVN RECENTLY AT PAINS TO APPEAR IN GOOD LIGHT. REVIEWS RECENT THIEU INTERVIEWS, AND EARLIER CONFRONTATIONS WITH PRESS AND OPPOSITION. SAYS LAWYERS FROM PRESS CONFERENCE COMMITTEE TOUR SAIGON JAILS LOOKING FOR ARRESTED NEWSMEN. NOTES CLOSED PAPERS RECEIVED ORDERS FOR "TEMPORARY SUSPENSION" FROM INT MINISTRY.

OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE ARREST OF NEARLY 200 HOA HAO SECT MEMBERS, MOSTLY AS DRAFT DODGERS AND DESERTERS. GVN SPOKESMAN DENIED CLAIMS BY SECT LEADERS THAT SEVEN KILLED, 15 WOUNDED AND 600 ARRESTED IN REBELLION; SAID ONLY ONE KILLED (AP GLOBE, SUN, WP). GOVT KEEPS UP WAR ON HOA HAO PRIVATE ARMY WITH ROUNDUP OF DRAFT EVADERS AND DESERTERS IN NW DELTA (AP, CHITRIB).

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KHMER REBEL GUNNERS BLASTED 18-SHIP MEKONG CONVOY
RETURNING TO SVN, SANK TANKER AND SET TUG ABLAZE,
ACCORDING SHIPPING SOURCES (AP WP, SUN, GLOBE, CHITRIB).
FIELD REPORTS SAID INSURGENT RAIDS AND SHELLING KILLED
FIVE AROUND PP; DIPLOMATIC SOURCES STATED REBELS KILLED
13 VILLAGERS ON KOMPONG SPEU OUTSKIRTS, 30 MILES WEST
OF CAPITAL, BUT FANK CLAIMED IT KILLED 32 ENEMY IN
CLASHES IN AREA (AP, CHITRIB).

WP'S GETLER QUOTES USG SOURCES THAT INSURGENTS HAVE STARTED
TO MINE MEKONG TO CUT OFF SUPPLIES TO PP. SAYS THIS
INTRODUCES NEW ELEMENT INTO ALREADY HAZARDOUS CONVOY
TRIP, BUT FEW DETAILS AVAILABLE ON EXTENT OR TYPES OF
MINES. STATES SPECIALISTS SAY IF OF MAKESHIFT VARIETY,
THEY CAN BE SWEPT ASIDE FAIRLY EASILY; ANCHORED MINES
CAN ALSO PROBABLY BE SWEPT BY SVN BOATS OR CONVOY SHIPS
WITH CABLE-CUTTING DEVICES. NOTES IT CONSIDERED UNLIKELY

INSURGENTS HAVE MORE SOPHISTICATED PRESSURE OR MAGNETIC
TYPES. US MIL SOURCES SAID MINING ATTEMPT NOT UNEXPECTED,
BUT PUBLISHED MUSINGS BY MEKONG CAPTAINS LAST WEEK ABOUT
WHY REBELS WEREN'T USING MINES CAUSED STIR IN PENTAGON.

UPI'S DANILOFF (BULLETIN 2/2) QUOTES NEARY SENG, CAMBODIA'S
ONLY WOMAN DIPLOMAT OVERSEAS, IN WASHINGTON INTERVIEW
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ABOUT TERRIBLE WAR RAVAGING WHAT WAS ONCE PEACEFUL AND
BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY, AND ON NEED FOR HUMANITARIAN HELP.
COMMENTS THAT FROM VARIETY OF SOURCES EMERGES PICTURE OF
COUNTRY "SLOWLY SLIPPING DOWN THE DRAIN." STATES GKR
CONTROLS NO MORE THAN ESTIMATED 15 PCT OF LAND, ONCE
LOVELY PP NOW DISORDERLY, CROWDED CITY; THERE HAS BEEN
MUCH PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION; AND RICE MUST NOW BE IMPORTED.

LAT'S MCARTHUR IN SAIGON (1/31) REPORTS THIEU'S
BREAKFAST WITH SEVEN NEWSMEN THURSDAY TO PLEAD FOR
MORE US MIL AID; NOTES HE "ANSWERED SOME EMBARRASSING
QUESTIONS." OBSERVES THIEU WORRIED US MIGHT ABANDON
SVN. SAID 300 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL "VITAL." ASKED
IF SVN WOULD COLLAPSE WITHOUT IT, THIEU REPLIED 1975
"TOO SOON" BUT SITUATION WOULD "CERTAINLY" BECOME
DANGEROUS. THIEU BLAMED LOSS OF PHUOC LONG ON REDUCED
AID WHICH LIMITS ARVN MOBILITY, FIREPOWER 60 PERCENT.

THIEU SEES HIS DIFFICULTIES DATING FROM C-F. DECLARES
PRES NIXON PLEDGED AT SAN CLEMENTE ENOUGH AID FOR
VNAMESE PEOPLE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES, AND HAK TOLD
HIM RUSSIA, CHINA "WOULD COOPERATE WITH US" TO LIMIT

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SUPPLIES TO HANOI. BUT THIEU SAYS NVN NOW HAS THREE TO FIVE TIMES AS MUCH STRENGTH IN SVN AS IN 1972.

SAYS THIEU DISMISSED OPPOSITION CHARGES ABOUT PROPERTY HIS WIFE BOUGHT, INSISTING "IT IS ALL LEGAL. AS A MAN WHO LIKES AGRICULTURE, WHY NOT HAVE A PIECE OF LAND. MAYBE TO RETIRE."

FAR FROM RETIRING, THIEU SAID HE WEIGHING THIRD TERM, DEPENDING ON HOW HE HANDLES PRESENT COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE, AND SVN'S ECONOMIC DEPRESSION.

AS FOR HANOI'S CHARGES HE BLOCKS PEACE, THIEU SAID IF THIS SO, "I WOULD NEVER HAVE SIGNED THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENTS," ADDING: "I NEVER SENT TROOPS TO NORTH VIETNAM."

2. CHINA

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IN ANSWER TO QUESTION ABOUT US-CHINA RELATIONS AT MONDAY NATIONAL PRESS CLUB APPEARANCE (DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO ADMIN'S ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM), HAK REPLIED THAT DESPITE SEVERAL RECENT REPORTS OF PEKING'S UNHAPPINESS WITH US FAILURE TO DOWNGRADE RELATIONS WITH ROC, HE DOES NOT HAVE IMPRESSION PRC LEADERSHIP IS DISSATISFIED WITH STATE OF SINO-US RELATIONS (SUN'S MILLS).

JOC STAFFER (HK) REPORTS PEKING SIGNING TO PURCHASE AUSTRALIAN GRAIN, AFTER CANCELLING CONTRACT LAST WEEK TO BUY US WHEAT, RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT REASONS FOR SWITCH. NOTES ONE NEWS AGENCY REFERRED TO ANNOUNCE-MENTS AS JUGGLING ACT; BUT ACTUALLY, CHINA WAS COMMITTED TO AUSSIE DEAL UNDER THREE-YEAR CONTRACT AND DID NOT "SWITCH" FROM US TO AUSSIE WHEAT, MERELY CUT US PURCHASES. SAYS CONSENSUS OF HK ECONOMIC OBSERVERS MAINTAINS POLITICS PLAYED LITTLE OR NO ROLE IN CUTBACKS. YET, "POOR" SINO-US RELATIONS LIKELY TO HAVE SUBSTANTIAL LONG-TERM IMPACT ON PEKING'S GRAIN PURCHASES.

NOTES CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE REPEATEDLY TOLD VISITORS PURCHASES OF US GRAIN WERE ONLY "TEMPORARY" OR THAT US WAS "RESIDUAL SUPPLIER." LAST WEEK'S CUTBACK PROVES CHINESE WERE NOT JESTING, AND HK OBSERVERS ARE NOT PARTICULARLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ANOTHER 390,000 TONS OF US WHEAT SCHEDULED FOR THIS YEAR. HK VIEW IS THAT US WHEAT WAS SELECTED FOR CUTBACK BECAUSE US ALONE IS MAJOR SUPPLIER WITHOUT LONG-TERM CONTRACT, BECAUSE US WHEAT

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REPORTEDLY HAS SMUT PROBLEM AND VERMIN INFESTATION,
AND BECAUSE US TRADE SURPLUS WITH PRC ALMOST HIGH AS
JAPAN'S LAST YEAR.

3. JAPAN

MOF SAYS JAPAN'S FOREX RESERVES DROPPED 9 MILLION DOLS
IN JAN, TO 13.51 BILLION (REUTER, NYT).

AP (COPENHAGEN) REPORTS 143 JAL CHARTER JET PASSENGERS
HOSPILTALIZED ON LANDING IN COPENHAGEN MONDAY; ILLNESS
DIAGNOSED AS FOOD POISONING FROM BREAKFAST SERVED ON
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BOARD (NYT). JAL SAID JUMBO JET CARRIED 344 PASSENGERS,
ALL WINNERS OF FREE WEEK VACATION IN FRANCE IN COCA COLA
CONTEST (PHINQ). UNAFFECTED CREW, 201 PASSENGERS CONTINUE
ON WAY.

LAT'S JAMESON IN TOKYO (2/1) NOTES FIRST MAJOR SIGN OF
BREAKTHROUGH AGAINST INFLATION IN GOJ ANNOUNCEMENT THAT
TOKYO CPI ROSE ONLY .2 PERCENT IN JAN; 16.8 PERCENT
OVER SAME MONTH PREVIOUS YEAR. FIRST TIME IN 13 MONTHS
CPI ROSE LESS THAN 20 PERCENT.

JAMESON SAYS NEWS SPURRED HINTS BY FUKUDA THAT GOJ WOULD
NOW CONSIDER SHIFT TO ANTI-RECESSION POLICY. NOTES
SHIFT WOULD INDIRECTLY HELP US TRADE WITH JAPAN, RUNNING
IN RED AT ANNUAL RATE OF 3 BILLION DOLS OVER LAST EIGHT
MONTHS OF 1974. SAYS JAN CPI VIRTUALLY GUARANTEES MIKI
PLEDGE TO KEEP YEAR-TO-YEAR INCREASE WITHIN 15 PERCENT
BY END OF MARCH.

CSM'S BETH POND INTERVIEWS "LIVING TREASURE" KAKO
MORIGUCHI IN KYOTO STUDIO WHERE HE DYES KIMONOS BY
MULTI-COLORED YUZEN METHOD (PHINQ).

4. KOREA

WHEAT FUTURES RALLY 6 CENTS, TO 3.85 A BUSHEL ON CHICAGO
BOARD OF TRADE WITH NEWS SK TOOK 20,000 TONS (NYT).

ECON PLANNING BOARD PREDICTS 1.9 PERCENT RISE IN SK
UNEMPLOYMENT, TO 6 PERCENT THIS YEAR (AP, CSM).

5. PHLIPPINES

INTL CHESS FEDN IN AMSTERDAM SAID MONDAY SOVIET CHALLENGER
PREFERS TO PLAY FOR TITLE IN MILAN; CHAMPION BOBBY
FISCHER LIKES MANILA. FEDN SAYS IT WILL CHOOSE SITE BY

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FEB 17 (REUTER, CHITRIB; AP, SUN).

6. INDONESIA

GLOBE (2/2) CARRIES TWO PAGES OF PICTURES, TRAVEL
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ARTICLE BY WILLIAM DAVIS, WHO FINDS JAKARTA BIG,
SPRAWLING, CHAOTIC, WITH LOTS OF VITALITY BUT LITTLE
OF BEAUTY OF BALI OR CENTRAL JAVA.

Y. THAILAND

PHINQ (BANGKOK) REPORTS PAA 74/ LANDED SAFELY AT
BANGKOK AFTER SMALL EXPLOSION STARTED FIRE ON BOARD.
ONE OF 79 PERSONS ON BOARD INJURED. POLICE HOLD
INDIAN "MR. DANG," FOR INVESTIGATION; HE ALSO
TREATED FOR BURNS. SOURCES SAY TWO EMPTY BUTANE
LIGHTERS FOUND IN BADLY SCORCHED JET LAVATORY.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER SENI PRAMOJ ALTS TRY TO
FORM MAJORITY COALITION BECAUSE THAI NATIONAL
PARTY INSISTS ON COMPLETE CONTROL OF INTERIOR
MINISTRY (CHITRIB, WP). HE WILL NOW TRY FORM
MINORITY GOVT WITH SOCIAL AGRARIAN AND FOUR OTHER
PARTIES, THAT HOLD TOTAL OF 146 SEATS IN 269-SEAT
ASSEMBLY. BUT PROSPECTIVE COALITION FACES
DIFFICULTIES, WITH TWO PARTIES LEFT OF DP'S "MILD
SOCIALISM," AND IN FAVOR OF US FORCES RAPID WITHDRAWAL.
SENI EXPECTED TO BE PM, SOCIAL AGRARIAN PARTY CHAIRMAN
SEWET PIEMPONGSARM DEPUTY PM (NYT).

SUN'S ISAACS IN BANGKOK SAYS SENI ANNOUNCEMENT MAKES
MINORTY GOVT "VIRTUAL CERTAINTY"; BUT THIS MEANS
THAILAND'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP FLEDGLING DEMOCRACY
WILL BE HANDICAPPED BY VULNERABLE REGIME, SUBJECT
TO CHRONIC CRISIS AND PERMANENT POSSIBILITY OF DIS-
SOLUTION. NOTES SENI REFUSED ALL WEEK TO ACCEPT
DEMANDS OF THAI NATIONAL PARTY LED BY THREE EX-GENERALS
TO NAME DEPUTY PM AND HOLD POWERFUL INTERIOR MINISTRY,
WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS WOULD ADMINISTER NEXT ELECTION
MANY THAIS BELIEVE WILL COME SOON.

8. FOOD AID

WP'S MORGAN SAYS US TO SHIP OVER 5.5 MILLION TONS OF
FOOD AID ABROAD BY END OF FY 75 AS RESULT OF PRES'
LATE DECISION TO RAISE FOOD OUTLAYS FOR CURRENT FY
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SHARPLY. FACED WITH 30 PERCENT LIMIT IMPOSED BY CONGRESS ON CONCESSIONAL FOOD AID FOR NATIONS NOT AMONG HARDEST HIT BY GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS, PRES AGREED TO HIGHER OVERALL TOTAL OUT OF CONCERN RESTRICTION WOULD LIMIT FOOD AID TO SUCH "DIPLOMATIC FAVORITES" AS SK, SVN, ACCORDING CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES. SAME SOURCES CREDIT SENATE LIBERALS LED BY HATFIELD WITH FORCING DECISION BY FIRM STAND AGAINST STRONG BACKSTAGE DOS PRESSURE TO RELAX RESTRAINTS ON FOOD AID FOR POLITICAL INSTEAD OF HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES.

9. AUSTRALIA

CSM'S TOOHEY IN SYDNEY SAYS AUSSIES HAVE CHANCE TO REAP RICH REWARD FROM BOOMING ENERGY DEMAND WITH VAST DEPOSITS OF COAL, URANIUM. JAPAN'S INTEREST WELL KNOWN; BUT WHITLAM TOUR DISCLOSED FOR FIRST TIME THAT BELGIUM, HOLLAND, FRANCE, ITALY AND FRG ALSO WANT LARGE QUANTITIES OF URANIUM. WHITLAM MADE PLAIN IN EUROPE SALES WOULD BE AUSSIE TERMS, I.E., FROM ENRICHMENT PLANT BUILT BY PROSPECTIVE CONSUMERS IN AUSTRALIA.

CSM'S MILLAR IN CANBERRA NOTES WIDE SUPPORT FOR GOA REFUSAL OF VISAS TO FIVE PLO MEMBERS. LABOR OFFICIAL INVITED THEM UNOFFICIALLY, BUT WHITLAM, CABINET REJECTED THEIR APPLICATION FOR VISAS. NATIONAL SENTIMENT SHOWN BY FACT LABOR, LIBERAL AND COUNTRY PARTY PREMIERS OF ALL SIX STATES ANNOUNCED BOYCOTT OF PROPOSED VISIT.

DELHI INTL OIL IN DALLAS SAYS IT WILL SELL 50 PERCENT INTEREST IN OIL, GAS RESERVES IN AUSTRALIA, 25 PERCENT INTEREST IN OTHER OIL PROPERTY TO GOA AGENCY, PETROLEUM AND MINERALS AUTHORITY; EXPLAINS SALE COMPLIES WITH REQUEST OF TREASURER OF AUSTRALIA (NYT).

10. NEW ZEALAND

LAT'S LAMB IN WELLINGTON DESCRIBES SOLUTION FOUND BY LATE PM KIRK TO NAGGING SEARCH FOR ANTIDOTE TO MATERIALISM OF MODERN SOCIETY, AND NATION-BUILDING REMEDY FOR THOSE SEEKING ALTERNATE LIFE STYLE. HE CAME UP WITH IDEA
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FOR COMMUNES, LIKE ISRAEL'S, ON CROWN LAND ALLOCATED BY GOVT. CALLED "OHU," COMMUNES ESTABLISH OWN RULES, ARE NOT OBLIGATED TO CREATE SELF-SUFFICIENT ECONOMIC

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UNIT. FIRST OHU WAS GRANTED 200 ACRES SAME MONTH KIRK DIED, FOUR MORE FORMED SINCE, AND 30 ARE WAITING GOVT APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR SITE.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

11. CHINA

IN GREENWAY'S (WP) ANALYSIS, NET RESULT OF FOURTH NPC APPEARS TO PROMISE PROGRAM OF POLITICAL STABILITY THAT WOULD ATTEMPT LOCKING PRC ONTO COURSE OF ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND MODERNIZATION UNTIL END OF CENTURY. RE-ELECTION OF CHOU AS PREMIER, MAJORITY OF MINISTERS BELIEVED TO SHARE HIS VIEWS AND ABSENCE MOST OF CHOU'S POTENTIAL RIVALS FROM GOVT LISTS ALL AUGER WELL FOR CHINA "MODERATES," AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING. IN REPORT TO NPC, CHOU SEEMED TO BE SAYING MAO'S CAMPAIGNS TO GUARD AGAINST REVISIONISM AND RETURN TO CAPITALISM SERVED THEIR PURPOSE, BUT FUTURE CAMPAIGNS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH CHINA'S POLITICAL UNITY AND ECONOMIC GOALS (PHINQ).

CDN FINDS NEW PRC CONSTITUTION SILENT ABOUT WHETHER "ANY BIG CHANGES ARE COMING" IN PEKING'S "UNIQUE" INTERPRETATION OF COMMUNIST RULE, AND ABOUT WHO WILL

RULE PRC AFTER MAO. NOTES THAT FOR ALL ITS STRANGE CONVOLUTIONS, CHINESE GOVT HAS MANAGED TO SURVIVE AND "CONTINUE SQUEEZING ITS MILLIONS INTO A MOLD THAT DRAWS ALTERNATE ADMIRATION AND HORROR FROM WESTERNERS ALLOWED TO OBSERVE IT." CITES KEYES BEECH COMMENT THAT NOTHING IN PRC LEADERSHIP LINEUP OR NEW CONSTITUTION INDICATES ANY MAJOR CHANGES OF COURSE ARE IN IMMEDIATE OFFING.

CDN HOLDS THAT NOT EVEN CONSTITUTION'S "RATHER STARTLING NEW DECLARATION" THAT PEOPLE HAVE "FREEDOM TO STRIKE" IS LIKELY TO CHANGE THINGS, SINCE CHINA'S PEOPLE ALSO HAVE, AT LEAST ON PAPER, RIGHT TO SPEECH, PRESS, ASSEMBLY
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AND RELIGION FREEDOMS -- BUT EXERCISING THESE RIGHTS IS DANGEROUS BUSINESS. CONCLUDES THAT IF NEW CONSTITUTION REPRESENTS "MODERATES'" TRIUMPH, AS MOST OBSERVERS SUGGEST, IT IS MODERATION OF TYPE "TOTALLY ALIEN TO WESTERN THINKING"; AND BIG TEST OF PEKING'S OWN CONCEPTION OF MODERATION MAY COME WHEN SHE IS FORCED TO ANSWER BIG QUESTION ABOUT WHO SUCCEEDS MAO (JAN 29).

IN TAIPEI, WM. RUSHER HOLDS THAT JUDGING FROM "CHATTER IN THE LIBERAL SALONS" OF NY AND WASHINGTON, ONE WOULD

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THINK TAIWAN SOME SMALL, UNSIGHTLY PIMPLE ON FACE OF US RELATIONS WITH "RED CHINA," WORTH PERHAPS HOUR OR TWO OF HAK'S TIME SOME LAZY AFTERNOON, DURING WHICH "CLEVER" SECSTATE WILL FIND WAY OUT OF "OUR INCONVENIENT" MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY WITH "ANTI-COMMUNIST" ROC. INSISTS, HOWEVER, THAT TO INSPECT ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENT ON TAIWAN, "AND GRASP ITS IMPLICATIONS" FOR FUTURE, IS SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN.

RUSHER MAINTAINS TAIWAN'S POPULATION OF 16 MILLION WOULD ALONE PUT HER IN CATEGORY OF IMPORTANT NATIONS, SINCE SHE IS BIGGER THAN THREE QUARTERS OF "SO-CALLED 'NATIONS' PIROUETTING THROUGH" UN CORRIDORS THESE DAYS. SECONDLY, BY ASIAN STANDARDS, WHICH ARE GETTING HIGHER, TAIWAN IS "DOWNRIGHT WELL-TO-DO." SAYS SOME SUSPECT THAT IF ONE COULD MEASURE COMPARATIVE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF JAPANESE AND TAIWANESE PEASANTRY, AS DISTINGUISHED FROM THEIR STRICTLY URBAN POPULATIONS, TAIWAN MIGHT COME IN FIRST, AHEAD OF JAPAN.

SAYS MAYBE HAK WILL INDEED TRY WRIGGLE US OUT OF MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY WITH ROC TO PAVE WAY FOR US DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF "RED CHINA -- BUT THAT IS ALL THAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN, EVEN AT WORST." FOR TAIWAN "IS SIMPLY TOO BIG, TOO WELL-OFF AND TOO POWERFUL TO BE SWALLOWED BY PEKING EITHER NOW OR IN THE YEARS AHEAD." RUSHER RECOUNTS VISIT TO CHINA SHIPBUILDING CORP, CHINA STEEL

CORP AND CHINESE PETROLEUM CORP, AND DOUBTS THEY ARE SOMETHING LKS AND HIS HEIRS "ARE LIKELY TO LET SLIP THROUGH THEIR FINGERS"INTO MAO'S HANDS. SAYS THESE PROJECTS SOUND LIKE CONFIDENT ACTS OF SMALLER AND STREAM-
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LINED VERSION OF JAPANESE MIRACLE ON ITS WAY TO BECOMING HIGHLY RESPECTABLE PART OF WORLD ECONOMY (PHINQ).

12. KOREA

JACK ANDERSON (WP) DETECTS DOUBLE-STANDARD PRESS-TREATMENT OF LEFT-WING, RIGHT WING GOVTS. CITES "CANDY COATED COVERAGE" OF KIM IL SUNG, "ONE OF WORLD'S MOST REPRESSIVE RULERS." YET, PARK IS CONDEMNED FOR ABANDONING DEMOCRACY; AND WHEN HE CALLED REFERENDUM AND OFFERED TO STEP DOWN IF HE LOSES, PRESS "IMMEDIATELY CHARGED THE ELECTIONS WOULD BE RIGGED." ANDERSON RECALLS OWN CRITICISM OF SK, SUCH AS GRAPHIC ACCOUNT OF KCIA KIDNAPPING OF KIM DAE JUNG. NOTES PARK PROMISES TO LET OPPOSITION AND GOVT PARTY REPS BOTH ACT AS BALLOT BOX OBSERVERS, AND HAVE FOREIGN PRESS OBSERVE REFERENDUM AND REPORT WHAT THEY SEE -- WHICH IS "MORE THAN KIM IL SUNG HAS OFFERED."

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CHICAGO-BASED DONG-A ILBO CORRESPONDENT K.C. LEE WRITES (CHITRIB) THAT AT THIS HOUR IN PART OF SO-CALLED FREE WORLD, HIS LARGE, INDEPENDENT PAPER, WHICH SYMBOLIZES DEMOCRACY, IS BEING STRANGLED BY POLITICALLY-INSPIRED AD BOYCOTT. RECOUNTS HOW PUBLIC WENT ON NONVIOLENT WARPATH, BEGAN "SAVE DONG-A ILBO CAMPAIGN" WITH SYMPATHY SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE, INCLUDING YEAR-ADVANCE PAYMENT FOR ADS. REPORTS GOVT AUTHORITIES CALLED IN PAPER AD OFFICIALS, DETAINED THEM FOR INTERROGATION "WHICH OFTEN MEANS A 2X4 MAY BE USED"; THEIR COLLEAGUES CONDUCTED SIT-IN VIGIL AT EDITORIAL OFFICES UNTIL AD REPS RELEASED AFTER 70 HOURS. QUOTES ELDERLY KOREAN WHO CHEERED, "YONDER NEWSPAPER HAS WON OVER MANY EVILS, INCLUDING FOREIGN WAR-LORDS AND TYRANTS...LONG LIVE DONG-A ILBO" -- THEN, AFRAID OF HOSTILE GOVT AGENTS, HE DISAPPEARED INTO DOWNTOWN CROWD.

13. INDOCHINA

REV WEBBER OF CHURCH AND LAITY CONCERNED WRITES TO NYT (1/31) THAT, TO OUR CONTINUING DISHONOR, WE SUSTAIN CORRUPT AND REPRESSIVE GVN. RECALLS THAT YEAR AGO HE VISITED SAIGON AND WAS SHOCKED BY US PRESS THERE WHOSE
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MEMBERS WERE OF ONE MIND IN AFFIRMING THAT "NEARLY EVERY SINGLE ONE" OF THE HUNDREDS OF C-F VIOLATIONS THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO ASSESS WERE INITIATED BY THIEU FORCES. HOPES THAT CONGRESS PAYS NO HEED TO REQUESTS FOR MORE AID TO GVN.

IN LETTER TO NYT, NGUYEN DUC THANH COMMENTS ON WICKER'S JAN 26 COLUMN, SEES VN'S TROUBLES SINCE 1945 DUE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY TO BIG POWERS. BELIEVES END TO WAR THEREFORE REQUIRES MORAL LEADERSHIP OF BIG POWERS ACTING TOGETHER IN GLOBAL INTEREST. FOR US TO CUT OFF ALL AID TO SVN AT THIS TIME WOULD BE TO IGNORE MORAL OBLIGATIONS TO COUNTRY DEVASTATED BY US MIL ACTIONS.

JAMES CUNNINGHAM, SON OF US DIPLOMAT WHO LIVED IN SAIGON ON TWO OCCASIONS IN LATE FORTIES AND EARLY SIXTIES, WRITES TO NYT THAT US SHOULD ABANDON INDOCHINA TO COMMUNIST REGIME, SINCE IT IS ONLY ONE THAT CAN BRING PEACE AND RECONSTRUCTION TO ENTIRE AREA. DOES NOT BELIEVE INDOCHINA IS VITAL TO FREE TRADE AND SECURITY OF PACIFIC BASIN. POINTS OUT THAT VIETS ARE OLD ENEMIES OF CHINESE, AND REMOVING ECON AND MIL DEPENDENCE ON PEKING AND MOSCOW WILL GIVE THEM OPPORTUNITY TO BE INDEPENDENT COMMUNIST STATE LIKE YUGOSLAVIA.

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DUDMAN (STLP-D 1/26) SEES US ON VERGE OF ANOTHER GREAT VN DEBATE, WITH QUESTION HOW LONG US TAXPAYERS MUST CONTINUE TO FINANCE ONGOING CONFLICT. QUOTES REP ASPIN THAT US RECON FLIGHTS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN MIL AID CEILING, AS SHOULD OUR MIL ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND. SAYS WAS TOLD BY SENATE AIDE WHO OBTAINED INFO FROM CIA, NSC AND DOS ON OWN INITIATIVE, THAT ONE BILLION DOLS WAS ABSOLUTE MINIMUM NEEDED BY SVN THIS FY, AND AMOUNT GRANTED MEANT 40 PCT CUTBACK IN GVN MIL ACTIVITIES SO OPENED WAY FOR COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE. STATES THAT SOME OFFICIALS SEEM ABOUT TO MAKE PREDICTION THAT WE WILL BE OUT OF "TUNNEL" IN TWO OR THREE YEARS. QUOTES MAYNARD PARKER ARTICLE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT IT IS HARD TO APPORTION BLAME FOR C-F BREAKDOWN, BUT PARKER "IS INCLINED TO CONCLUDE" THAT GVN IS MORE GUILTY SINCE ITS ACTIONS APPEAR TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT NEVER REALLY
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INTENDED TO IMPLEMENT TRUCE.

PHILA BULLETIN'S ROTH (2/2) HEARS FAMILIAR RING IN ADMIN'S ARGUMENTS FOR MORE MIL AID TO SVN, POINTS OUT THAT CONGRESS MUST DECIDE HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH. SPECULATES ON WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED IF WE HAD NOT COME TO RESCUE OF SVN IN FIRST PLACE; WONDERS IF ALL ASIA WOULD HAVE BECOME COMMUNIST OR IF VN WOULD HAVE BECOME INDEPENDENT COMMUNIST COUNTRY LIKE YUGOSLAVIA. BELIEVES WE HAVE TO FACE THESE QUESTIONS ANEW BECAUSE WE FAILED TO EXAMINE THEM THOROUGHLY TEN YEARS AGO. WITH VN AND CAMBODIA "GOING DOWN THE DRAIN," OLD QUESTIONS ARE BEING ASKED: TO WHAT EXTENT IS IT IN OUR NATL INTEREST TO PROTECT GVN; HOW MUCH DOES NATL HONOR REQUIRE US TO PERSEVERE IN WHAT LOOKS INCREASINGLY LIKE LOST CAUSE; IS THERE CUTOFF POINT ANYWHERE; WHEN IS DEBT "PAID IN FULL?" QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED IN ATMOSPHERE OF SERIOUS AMERICAN DOMESTIC PROBLEMS WHICH EXPLAINS WHY "MOST QUALIFIED OBSERVERS BELIEVE CONGRESS WILL NOT VOTE THE EXTRA MONEY THE PRESIDENT WANTS FOR VIETNAM."

CDN'S EATON (1/27) QUOTES REP PRICE, NEW CHAIRMAN OF HASC, THAT IT WAS MISTAKE TO SEND US TROOPS TO FIGHT IN VN, BUT HE WANTS TO STUDY REASONS CAREFULLY BEFORE HE MAKES UP MIND ON PRES' REQUEST FOR MORE MIL AID FOR SVN. EATON NOTES THAT PRICE'S SYMPATHY FOR PENTAGON'S ARMS REQUESTS IS SIMILAR TO HEBERT'S,THOUGH HE SAYS HE WILL PRUNE MIL SPENDING THIS YEAR. REP ASPIN DOUBTS HE WILL CUT ENOUGH.

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CHAMBERLAIN (BALTO N-A 1/31) NOTES THAT SEN JACKSON IN SEEKING DEM NOMINATION IS WILLING TO PLAY DETENTE GAME WITH PEKING, GIVING MAOISTS EA SPHERE OF INFLUENCE FROM INDOCHINA TO TAIWAN. SAYS JACKSON INDICATED AT RECENT BEVERLY HILLS NEWS CONFERENCE THAT HE IS READY TO LET GVN GO DOWN DRAIN, AND REFERRED TO FURTHER MIL AID TO SVN AS POSSIBLY EASILY LOST IN "BOTTOMLESS PIT."

SUN'S KILPATRICK NOTES WORD ON HILL THAT PRES' REQUEST FOR MORE MIL AID FOR VN IS NOT AGREEABLE TO CONGRESS.
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SAYS IF PESSIMISTIC PREDICTION IS TRUE IT IS BAD NEWS FOR WHOLE OF FREE WORLD. CITES MANSFIELD'S RECENT STATEMENT THAT IN EFFECT SAID "LET THE CHANCE FOR FREEDOM GO." CALLS THIS FAILURE OF WILL, AS WE ARE ONLY BEING ASKED TO PROVIDE SVN WITH MEANS TO FIGHT BACK. SEES NO FAILURE OF WILL ON COMMUNIST SIDE SINCE MOSCOW AND PEKING HAVE INCREASED MIL AID TO NVN SINCE C-F.

WONDERS IF WE CAN LET "FLICKERING CANDLE" OF FREEDOM IN SVN GO OUT. SAYS SACRIFICE OF SOUTH VIETS NOT WIDELY UNDERSTOOD BY AMERICANS. ASSERTS THAT VIETS WOULD NOT KEEP FIGHTING AND DYING FOR "CORRUPT... DICTATOR". POINTS OUT THAT SOUTH VIETS ARE TIRED, BUT "NOT AS TIRED AS OLD SENATORS," AND DO NOT REGARD TRIUMPH OF COMMUNISM AS INEVITABLE. RECOMMENDS THAT AID BE PROVIDED -QUICKLY, GENEROUSLY, UNSTINTINGLY, WITH EVERY POSSIBLE DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE APPLIED TO PEKING AND MOSCOW.

CONSIDINE (BALTO N-A 1/30) DOES HUMAN INTEREST PIECE ON GOOD WORK OF BETTY TISDALE, FORMERLY SECY TO SEN JAVITS, IN WORKING DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY FOR SAIGON

ORPHANAGE NAMED AN LOC. BUT ORPHANAGE'S FARM ANNEX NEAR BIEN HOA IS FEELING "HOT BREATH OF WAR." NOTES THAT BETTY WILL RETURN TO VN FOR VISIT AND WORK AROUND ORPHANAGE AND FARM FOR FEW WEEKS.

STL P-D (1/26) COMMENTS FAVORABLY ON SWISS AUTHORIZATION FOR PRG TO OPEN OFFICE AT UN GENEVA HQ, ASKED BY WALDHEIM TO FURTHER CONTACTS WITH UN AID AGENCIES. DEPLORES FACT SYG ASSURANCE THAT PRG WOULD DEAL ONLY WITH "HUMANITARIAN MATTERS" FAILED TO SATISFY DOS. NOTES USG TRIED TO BLOCK MOVE, AS IT HAS ALL TIES BETWEEN PRG AND UN FOR PAST DECADE. P-D ARGUES "NO CONSTRUCTIVE PURPOSE" SERVED BY US "OBSTRUCTIONISM," SINCE SMALL PRG OFFICE IN GENEVA OR NY WOULD NOT BE TANTAMOUNT TO UN RECOGNITION; AND FAR FROM THREATENING

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US INTERESTS, VC OFFICE WOULD AFFIRM VERY PURPOSE OF
UN "TO SERVE AS FORUM FOR PEACEFUL CONTACTS AMONG NATIONS."
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